

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS
CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD STAFF
WID STAFF

SUBJECT: STANDARDS FOR DEFINING METROPOLITAN AREAS

On August 22, 2000, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) received final recommendations from an interagency committee on defining the nation's metropolitan areas. The Federal Register notice and request for comment can be found on the OMB Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/fedreg/2000.html>. Supporting documents are on the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/masrp.html>. Comments to OMB are due no later than October 6, 2000.

The purpose of the standards is to "provide nationally consistent definitions for collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics for a set of geographic areas." The expected new geographic areas under these standards are of concern to the Labor Market Information Division (LMID) because they may reduce our ability to provide local labor force, industry, and occupational data to local workforce investment boards, One-Stop centers, employers, job seekers, researchers, and our many other customers.

Some expected areas that may be affected by the OMB recommendations:

- Los Angeles and Orange Counties would be combined for data collection purposes in the federal/State cooperative programs. They are currently separate areas.
- San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties (now one area for data collection) would be combined with Alameda and Contra Costa Counties (now one area) and Solano County to create a six-county Bay Area data collection area.
- Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Counties (now one area) would be combined with Yolo County (now one area) and Douglas County, Nevada.
- New separate data collection areas would be the counties of Imperial, Kings, Madera, San Benito, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Tehama.

Using the proposed standards, these expected effects are based on the 1990 Census. Final geographic areas will be based on the 2000 Census, but we anticipate few, if any, differences. If any revised standards are accepted by the OMB, the first areas to be designated using the revised standards and Census 2000 data could be announced in year 2003.

Customers of labor market information are encouraged to review these recommendations and submit comments to the OMB by the October 6, 2000, deadline. Please submit an additional copy of any recommendations or comments to:

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If you have any questions, please contact Georganne Pinter Baldwin, at (916) 654-7611.

/S/ BILL BURKE
Chief